

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

CD NO.

DATE DISTR. 23 October 1951

NO. OF PAGES 4 25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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The following information was obtained

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for the months of January and February 1951.

The figures in brackets are the corresponding figures from the preceding month.

1. January:

a. Industrial Situation:

At the Kupfer- und Blechwalzwerk (Copper and Sheet Mill) in Ilseburg a number of valuable suggestions designed to improve production methods and to preserve scarce raw materials have been put in operation by workers of the plant. The same applies to the scheduled mechanization and modernization of below-ground mining. A special loading conveyor belt was put in operation at the seam face of the brown coal mine in Unseburg. A second such conveyor belt will be installed in the near future. A new shaft is nearing completion at the iron ore mine near Wernigerode. A new furnace, which was put into operation at the Organa (Fahlberg-Liess) Nationalized Plant, will increase the capacity of the plant's sulphuric acid department by one third as compared with the status of 1950. With the aid of the U.S.S.R., adequate supplies of raw materials for the production of superphosphates are guaranteed. An increased output of medicines may also be expected at the Organa Plant. Work in some departments of the steel and iron plant in Thale was discontinued because of major damage of the driving mechanism of the train of rollers for ingots. Shipments by the Electric Motor Plant in Wernigerode were small. The hauling of timber from the Harz Mountains was delayed by icy roads. A new set of rollers was installed at the rolling mill in Burg near Magdeburg. The oil and fat plants in Magdeburg are working to capacity. Preparations for the reconstruction of the soda works in Bernburg continue. With improved loading facilities at the rolling mill for non-ferrous metals at Hettstedt, there is a smooth flow of shipments and unnecessary delays of railroad cars are eliminated. Shipments of potash fertilizers from all mines increased. Because there were no export orders, the mineral salt plants in Stassfurt had no use for the railroad cars offered them. The shipment of soda proceeded according to schedule. Cement shipments from Nienburg increased by approximately 600 cars.

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No Change In Glass. ☐

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Class. Changed To: TS

08/08 : CIA-RDP82-00457R0008700220014-4

18 AUG 1978

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b. Rolling Stock Situation:

As in previous years, in January 1951, the rolling stock situation eased considerably and requirements for transportation space dropped greatly in comparison with the preceding fall months. The considerable decline in the requirements for railroad cars as compared with the same period last year is noteworthy. This is shown by the following figures:

	1949/1950 Number of Cars Requested	1950/1951 Number of Cars Requested.
December	124,278	107,034
January	108,468	77,976
Difference	15,810	29,058

An average of 2,776 (2,746) cars were loaded and 2,377 (2,469) unloaded daily. The target figures were 2,915 (2,986) and 2,600 (2,800) respectively.

c. Breakdown of Shipments:

Potatoes	999 tons (6,120)
Fertilizers	61,417 tons (42,192)
Mineral salt	46,548 tons (48,500)
Coal	476,102 tons (450,716)

d. Interzonal Trade:

Exports included pit props, sawn timber, machine parts, building materials, fuels, paper, iron goods, mixed consignments, household goods and furniture, chemicals, liquid chlorine, mail, coke, fertilizers, foodstuffs, gasoline, timber oil, paraffin, starch, potash, mineral salt, onions. Imports included superphosphates, machine parts, oleic acid, soda, foodstuffs, leather scraps, iron, sheet iron, hard coal, building materials, fuels, timber, paper, oiled linen, cattle, mixed consignments, piece goods, mail, phosphates, oil, coke, wire cables.

e. Breakdown of Foreign Trade:

Exports to:

Bulgaria:	detonators, chloride of magnesium.
Denmark:	liquor, chemicals.
Holland:	chemicals.
Czechoslovakia:	hard wood, roasted residues of pyrites, chemicals, potash, mineral salt.
Poland:	machine parts, chemicals, sulphuric acid, ties.
Sweden:	chemicals.
Switzerland:	saccharin, chemicals.
Belgium:	Kainite

Imports from:

Poland:	metal drums, wire cables, iron billets, coke
Czechoslovakia:	crude copper, coke, machine tools, refined copper.

f. Waterways:

The Elbe and Saale Rivers are fully navigable.

g. Total Receipts:

Receipts from passenger, luggage and express freight traffic amounted to 5,231,922 eastmarks.

2. February:

a. Industrial Situation:

At the rolling mill in Burg near Magdeburg the production of 1 mm sheets which was started in December 1950, was improved so that 94 percent of the

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output was of the highest quality. A new special train of rollers (Warm-walzenstrasse) was put into operation. A new work shop with a floor space of 1,400 square meters for processing sheets was completed. A high voltage motor of up to 3,000 volts and 160 kw was developed at the electro-motor plant in Wernigerode, a nationalized enterprise. The Emil Otto Firm delivers its technical chemical products to metal-working plants in the Soviet Zone of Germany, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden and Finland. Exports are expected to rise still more in the course of 1951. The steel and iron plant in Thale is again working to capacity. Timber hauling from the Upper Harz Mountains has not yet been resumed because of deep snow. A new brown coal briquette pressing plant has been opened in Oschersleben. Building materials for iron ore mines which will be opened between Voelpke and Eilsleben, are currently arriving. Potash and kainite shipments have increased and mineral salt shipments have considerably decreased. The enlargement of the soda works in Stassfurt ** and the reconstruction of the soda works in Bernburg *** are making good progress.

b. Farming:

Farm hands in Kreis Burg near Magdeburg have organized Tillage Brigades to help fulfill the aims of the Five-Year Plan in the agricultural sector. With the aid of agricultural exhibits, it has been possible to conclude 1,343 pig-fattening contracts in Kreis Salzwedel within one week. The MAS (Tractor station) in Kross Luebars has concluded to date, contracts with 720 farmers. It has contracted to till an additional 1,000 hectares in 1951.

c. Rolling Stock Situation:

An average of 2,860 (2,776) railroad cars were loaded and 2,407 (2,377) unloaded in February. The target figures for that month were 3,022 (2,915) and 2,600 (2,600) respectively.

e. Breakdown of Shipments:

Potatoes	812 tons	(999)
Fertilizers	91,260 tons	(61,417)
Mineral salt	39,530 tons	(46,548)
Coal	401,002 tons	(476,102)

e. Interzonal Shipments:

Shipments to Western Germany included: building materials, iron, timber, fuels, paper, cattle, mixed consignments, household goods and furniture, mail, express goods and piece goods, pit props, fertilizers, table salt, paraffin, chemicals, bromine, casting sand, potassium sulfate, potash. Shipments from Western Germany included: piece goods, butter, cacao, beans, hops, foodstuffs, iron, sheet iron, hard coal, building materials, timber, fuels, paper, cattle, mixed consignments, mail, express goods, fertilizers, tar oil, empty bottles, pig iron.

f. Foreign Trade:

Exports to:

Poland:	chemicals, sulphuric acid, magnesium chloride, cement, iron goods, centrifugal pumps, furniture, sodium sulphate.
Denmark:	alcohol, chemicals, liquor, earthenware.
Czechoslovakia:	timber, machines, grain, kainite, chemicals, electrolytic copper, mineral salt.
Belgium:	saccharin, potash.
England:	saccharin.
Holland:	chemicals, potash.
Hungary:	machine parts, potassium bicarbonate.
Austria:	chemicals.
Rumania:	machines.

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Imports from:

Poland: butter, hard coal, wire cables, crude zinc, lard, coke.
Denmark: apples, cheese.
Holland: butter.
Rumania: butter.
Hungary: lard.
Sweden: salt herrings.
Bulgaria: crude copper.
Czechoslovakia: black copper, lard, coke.

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Comment: VEB Elektromotorenwerk, Wernigerode.

Comment: Probably the VEB Salzbergwerk Neustassfurt.

Comment: Probably the VEB Salzbergwerk, Bernburg-Gröna.

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